

CAREER PROSPECTS FOR FOREIGN GRADUATE STUDENTS IN NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES

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Abstract

Over the past few years, the number of foreign students from both European and non-European countries have increased in higher education institutions in the European Union (EU) and in the world. This increase is due to the interconnectivity of national economies and the phenomena of internationalization of higher education – the development of higher education and improved opportunities to study for students who come from abroad. Global economic, political and social processes and changes have influenced the development of studying conditions, such as: the youth unemployment rate in Europe has increased; increased political attention on education, where education is linked to employment and careers; massive participation and increasing competition amongst higher education institutions and entrants; higher education funding loss (the impact of the crisis); inadequate provision of higher education in emerging economies; the development of information technologies (distance learning), etc.

In analyzing the motives of students' choice to study abroad, the change is quite noticeable. Previously, study abroad was seen as an opportunity to contribute to society, the state, but not individual goals. However, when students pay for their studies independently, their goals are more aligned towards career prospects and opportunities to remain in the country they studied in. Meanwhile, the main criteria of the selection of foreign students for studying abroad are: study language (English), the quality of programs, immigration policy and future (work) opportunities, study fees, perspectives, culture, etc.

Thus, institutions are facing an increasing financial and competitive pressure to attract and retain as many foreign students as possible. This means that institutions of higher education need to innovate more by improving the admission of foreign students and balancing them with student support services that promote students' success, including the expectations of career and job opportunities.

Purpose – to explore the career prospects of foreign students (graduates) in non-English speaking countries.

Design/methodology/approach – analysis and evaluate scientific literature, statistics databases, and data comparison.

Findings – the data collected allows comparison of the opportunities and limitations faced by non-English-speaking countries for foreign students’ entry and pursuance of a successful career. The consequences of foreign student exchange processes, such as brain drain problems are often observed in non-English speaking countries. Therefore, a study into the career prospects of foreign graduates is important in order to create and develop strategies for brain gain and retention in non-English speaking countries.

Research limitations/implications – the article analyzes case analysis of non-English speaking territories in Europe which do not allow, visually the full picture of career prospects for foreign graduates in non-English speaking countries. It is also necessary to develop empirical research.

Practical implications – the benefits of attracting foreign students are particularly high for *‘the leading importers/attractors’* of higher education such as UK and USA. However, the current situation is that, part of higher education attractors’ events such as Donald Trump’s presidency and Brexit, reflect an anti-immigration tone, creates conditions for other countries to take action in developing political and management measures and tools that direct foreign student flows in other directions.

Originality/Value – the absence of research about the career prospects of foreign graduates in countries do not reflect the main reasons and motives for selecting a particular country to study, i.e., non-English speaking countries where: the quality of higher education is not comparable to leading European countries and other countries of the world; are characterized by migration policies that do not directly address the employment issues of foreigners; countries that have weak talent attraction and retention strategies and poor career tracking systems of foreign graduates. Collectively, this has led to the greater need to develop research and raise more discussions about these issues.

Keywords: foreign graduate students, career prospects, non-English speaking countries.

Research type: general review.